

Spotlight on America COMPETES Act

SCOTTSDALE - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today toured three local manufacturing companies and highlighted the importance of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act in creating and maintaining manufacturing jobs. Mitchell toured Fluidic Energy, JPS Manufacturing and FireTrace, all located in Scottsdale.

"The manufacturing sector plays a critical role in growing our economy and creating new jobs here in Arizona," Mitchell said. "For every dollar spent in the manufacturing sector, an additional \$1.36 is generated in economic activity. The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act helps manufacturers create and maintain jobs not only here in Arizona, but across the U.S."

The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, H.R. 5116, passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 262 to 150 on Friday. The legislation helps create high-tech and manufacturing jobs by providing small- and medium-sized manufacturers with Innovative Technology federal loan guarantees to help them access capital to become more efficient and stay competitive. The bill also included a provision sponsored by Mitchell to strengthen the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program to train teachers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

In addition to backing research and development and improving access to business loans for manufacturers, the bill also supports the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. The MEP provides resources to keep American manufacturers on the cutting edge by enhancing growth, improving productivity, and expanding capacity. These investments will bolster U.S. scientific and economic leadership, support businesses and create jobs for American workers.

To draw attention to the local economic impact of supporting Arizona manufacturers and the importance of the America COMPETES Act in ensuring sustainable economic growth in our community, Mitchell toured Fluidic Energy, a company that makes long-life green energy batteries that could potentially compete in the market with lithium ion batteries. Fluidic received a \$6 million ARPA-E Energy grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help advance their technology.

Following, Mitchell toured JPS Manufacturing, which provides contract manufacturing, specializing in Precision Machining, as well as FireTrace, a company that makes fire suppression equipment for police cars, military vehicles, computer components and wind

energy turbines.

Mitchell was joined on the tour by John Little, Executive Director of the Arizona MEP.

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